

## **MAYOR'S MAY 14, 2020 REPORT TO COUNCIL**

### **Mayor Gardner reported:**

- National Police Week: First of all, I'd like to extend my thanks to our Police Department for all the outstanding work they do in our community. I just received a note from the Fire Department that there was a rather serious accident in the city last night. The Police Department was right there and they rendered critical aid to the victim of the accident until they were able to get the victim extracted.

Please, if see one of our officers in the city, from a socially appropriate distance, please wish them a good week and thank them for their service.

- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health and safety of our residents is our top priority.

The Lake County General Health District, the local governments, continue to monitor the progress of the virus daily. It's going to be critical for the next couple of weeks as we start reaching the fourteen-day milestones in each of the openings that has occurred over the last couple of weeks and will be occurring for the next couple of weeks. The County has done very well in terms of controlling the spread of the virus and monitoring new cases. As we continue to open up, the Health District is ready to respond with contact tracing and all the appropriate measures needed to keep the county safe if there is a flare-up of the virus. I continue to urge all of our residents, do not to let your guard down. Continue to adhere to the State's Health Department's Guidelines, wear your masks, maintain your physical distances, stay in small groups, regular hygiene practices; all the things that we've been urging. Continue to visit the State's website, CDC website and the Health District's website. They'll provide excellent materials to help if you have any questions and they are regularly updated as we go through openings. You can see what's required and what best practices are for any of the businesses you might be going into. Please keep Willoughby Hills safe, people are looking out for one another. Don't let some openings up let your guard down.

- Director Brichacek and I continue to monitor the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on the city's finances on a daily basis. It's possible that there might be an impact on state and local government funding by the state with the Governor's need to cut back the budget. We won't know what those numbers are until after the end of the quarter and maybe into the third quarter.
- The City's Department Heads are continuing to do an excellent job monitoring their spending and deferring all possible expenditures while still maintaining the level of service that we want to provide to our residents.
- We will start opening City parks and facilities as soon as permitted, including, tennis courts on May 26<sup>th</sup>, in accordance with the information that came out this afternoon. We will keep everyone informed on the city's web page and on social media.

- A couple more cancellations: Memorial Day Ceremony has been cancelled, VFW Post cancelled their annual Memorial Day poppy sale. In lieu of our ceremony, the city is placing flags honoring our Veterans in front of the memorial and at the same time we're accepting donations to the VFW.

You can call the Mayor's office or download a request form from the city's website to have a Veteran honored or to make a donation to the VFW. Hopefully, we'll be able to give them a sizable donation to make up for the funds they are losing by having to cancel their sale.

- I strongly urge our residents, take a moment text, call, chat with your neighbors, now that the weather is getting better, please keep a social distance as you're doing so. Please reach out to your senior citizens, let them know you are there to support them and do what you can. Those are incredible meaningful gestures and certainly will help keep us as one community.

### **MAYOR'S MAY 28, 2020 REPORT TO COUNCIL**

#### **Mayor Gardner reported:**

- Union negotiations update: Mayor, Finance Director Brichacek and the Law Department are handling the negotiations and have a meeting set up with all Unions to explain financial conditions and hear their questions. Financials are on the website. He will defer to the Law Department on Mrs. Bing's question on the Union membership.
- Impact of COVID: Health and safety of our residents is our primary concern. He recommends to follow CDC guidelines and "don't let your guard down." PPE is being restocked by us and the county in the event of a flare up or second wave. New Lake County cases are being reported daily. He cannot say it enough to "be safe." Finance Director Brichacek and he are reviewing finances daily re. COVID and nothing new since he last reported. Some revenues are down and are being tracked. Late in the third quarter we will be able to make a better assessment, except for Mayor's Court.
- With regard to Councilwoman Majka's resignation, issues were raised and relate back to the Mayor Robert Weger era. As to how she felt he treated her during meetings, the Mayor said that the Council meeting tapes are available but he does not feel he conducted himself inappropriately at any of these meetings toward Councilman Majka, but the public is free to listen to the tapes. It is inappropriate to comment further at this time.
- There was a recent issue with City sewers that will be reported on by our City Engineer this evening.
- He encouraged residents to complete their census. There are 31.5% residents who still need to do their census according to a recent report he received. It is important as it controls funding that the city may receive.
- VFW memorial – campaign to raise funds is wrapping up and \$1500 is raised to date.

- Tennis courts re-opened Tuesday with guidelines posted for social distancing.
- He supports this evening's ordinances – CDBG grant (previously provided handicapped ramps for us), CARES and FEMA for COVID expense reimbursement.
- He has requested that Council pass a motion this evening to authorize fee waivers for use of our practice fields (not games), providing we receive their schedule, insurance, background checks on coaches and a waiver to be signed.
- Condolences to the families of Joan Adams and Char Aliberti, who passed away recently.
- Congratulations to all of our 2020 graduates. Willoughby-Eastlake Schools will be holding their ceremonies today and tomorrow at North High and he is grateful for their sacrifices for the health of our community.